

San Diego DX Club Bulletin



October 2014



What do you get when you combine good friends, a first anniversary / honeymoon and a tropical paradise vacation that falls on IARU weekend?

Our trip to ZF1A in July 2014, that's what.

When Joe W6VNR offered to loan us the contest station for IARU and we realized it was July 12 and 13 we had to go!

Jim K6ZH, Joan N6KIM, Gayle K6GO and Mike NA6MB made the trip a few days early to warm up, vacation and then op IARU.

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

For real time DX spotting and lively conversation on a variety of subjects, join us on 144.415 MHz.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Operating the 2014 IARU Contest from ZF1A
as told by our own members K6GO, N6KIM, NA6MB and K6ZH

OCTOBER MEETING NOTICE:

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,
San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M.

DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

A Word from the Prez	2
Vice President 's Report	3
Secretary/Treasurer Rpt	4
Editor's Ramblings	4
SDDXC Top Ten	5
How's DX	6
General Interest Items	7-12



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A Word from the Prez . . .

Wild Bill, WB6BFG



Greetings DXers,

I hope this finds everyone in good spirits and that you are working the good DX that is on currently. Sure was fun to work ZD9XF, Tristan da Cunha and E30FB, Eritrea! Especially for them uploading Q's to LoTW already! For those looking to find out what else is on the radio, check out NG3K's website <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

The San Diego DX Club is on Red Alert looking for someone to step up to the plate to take the position of Editor. Ron, N0RR has generously put in his time and the December issue will be his last one. So we need a brave soul that has some experience with MS Publisher to take over. Thanks a million Ron for all the work you've done for us!

This month's meeting will be at The Sizzler and our presentation will be by; Jim K6ZH, Joan N6KIM, Gayle K6GO and Mike NA6MB. They made the trip to Joe W6VNR's, ZF1A contest station a few days early to warm up, vacation and then operate IARU. Please join us for an evening of fun, food and camaraderie!

Thanks to Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ. He talked about his Top Ramen Powered DXpedition to Taiwan.

The 49th Annual CQP has come and gone. From a quick review of the 3830, posted scores seem to be higher than last year. <http://www.3830scores.com/listeditions.php?arg=2DcaiKz6aP>

Let's hope that we have favorable conditions for the 2014 CQ WW SSB DX Contest 0000Z, Oct 25 to 2400Z, Oct 26 <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm> It's rather different for me to be here in the U.S. for this test and to hear/work many good ones warming up that I usually miss out on.

Asia Pacific DX Convention (APDXC) 2014 is only 40 days away. Don't wait! Book your flights now, and register on their website! APDXC News October issue is now available at the following URL. <http://apdxc.org/news/OCT07.html> For details and registration, please go to their website at <http://apdxc.org/>.

If you find yourself with entirely too much time of your hands, here's this month's YouTube link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uv9WOIxxPrk>

Please remember that the club's newsletter is only as good as the information Ron receives, so please take the time to submit any DX related stories, tall tales, and musings of a madman or crazy lady for his consideration.

Thanks Ron for all you do!

73 & 88's to the pretty ones! *Wild Bill, WB6BFG*

Vice President Report

John, NA6L

It must be the season for small and large DXpeditions to the Pacific (and even farther West).

Whether you grabbed an ATNO (all time new one) or filled band/mode slots, the Pacific and beyond were alive with “suitcase” along and major DXpeditions during the last month.

For once we were the “aluminum curtain” for the stations to the east of us. You don’t hear the complaint very often but I heard “can’t get through the west coast” several times – turnabout is fair play. At one time I counted about 20 Islands that were cranking out the Qs. Some are very simple stations and are very weak but some of the suitcase/vacation DXpeditions are surprisingly strong.

The currently operating Lord Howe team has 11 members and the possibility to operate 11 stations.... with amps and great antennas. I have been hearing several club members working the VK9DLX’s excellent signal on 160m CW. Here is a partial list of what I have heard and even worked some band spots here and there:

TX7G Marquesas,
VK9DLX Lord Howe,
W1AW/KH0 Marianas/Tinian,
4W/K7CO Timor-Leste,
ZK3Q Tokelau,
V63GW Micronesia,
CE0Y/DL Easter Island,
TX5Z Austral Island,
YJ0X Vanuatu,
C21GC Nauru,
A35RT Tonga,
T30D W. Kiribati,
E51HDJ South Cook,
3D2KM Fiji,
VK9NT Norfolk Island

If you are not using a variety of the “free” DX bulletins it would be like going out to eat and not using the menu! The emailed bulletin will usually give will give the DX call sign and home call sign,

location, dates, QSL path and sometimes a web link to find more information. Some of the bulletins also cover IOTA and special events. All of these bulletins are free and subscription based and will appear in your email box weekly.

Here are a few of my favorite DX Bulletins:

OPDX Ohio Penn DX Bulletin <http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>

DX Italia News (one of the best in full colored PDF format) by I2MQP Mario

To receive this bulletin please send a message to marioi2mqp@alice.it.

Previous issues at www.marioi2mqp.it

The ARRL DX bulletin is a bit of a compilation from many sources and can be a bit overwhelming. “This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites.”

Regards, and good DX,

John, NA6L dotravel@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Ellen, N6UWW



Secretary's Report

We are looking for somebody to take over the position of Editor for the Club Bulletin. Anybody interested please contact Ron - N0RR or Wild Bill - WB6BFG as the Editor (Ron) is anxious to retire from this job.

We are also looking for someone to host the club's Holiday Party. Check your calendars & follow up with John NA6L to schedule and arrange all the details.

Meeting Minutes

The September 24th meeting was conducted by Vice-Pres. John Vissat – NA6L Sizzler at Murphy Canyon & Aero Dr. There were 27 members in attendance and one visitor. Ron hi-lighted the very interesting survey information and will publish it when done -- Ron received a nice round of applause for his work thus far. V.P. added that in the survey one of the most requested changes to the meetings format would be to try to keep the round-table discussion to DX related topics and limited to around 1 minute each.

There was a small discussion about a club wide text based DX spotting system and we were reminded by John K6AM that the club uses 144.415 to share DX info but there was only about 4 active members using the 2 m system. Several members mentioned that they could not hear other users on 144.415 because of their locations.

New Business: None

Round table --- most of the active DXing members have worked many new entities and lots of bands spots during the last few weeks, including: VK9AN, 4W6LU, TY1AA, OJ0AM, T6T, PY0F, VK9NT, ZD9DS, ZD9XF, A25TQ, ZL7X and even E30FB.

ZS1CO will be visiting SD next week and some of the members were going to get an eyeball.

Everyone stuck to DX topics during the Round table and things moved along quickly. It would

not hurt to mention "stick to DX topics and limit yourself to one minute" at every meeting.

Pat MHZ gave a presentation about his trip to Taiwan that was well received because of his unique delivery and wit.

Treasurer's Report

Statement Balance: 9/30/14 \$6690.34

Ellen, N6UWW

Editor's Ramblings

Weak signal DXing on 10m CW gone due to intruders?

If you chase DX on 10m CW you have probably noticed that 28.000 – 28.030 has been taken over by Spanish speaking AM intruders. The only time you do not hear them are on contest weekends. They appear shortly after the band opens and stay around S5 all morning. However, in the afternoon the carrier is S9 with each sideband at least 4 KHz wide. Therefore, each station wipes out about 8 KHz or more because these are not "clean" signals.

Because there are many, the CW band is nearly useless for weak signal DXing every day. My guess is that these are low power, probably 50W, commercially built AM rigs because I can see the "end of transmission tone burst" at the high frequency end of each sideband just before the carrier goes off. I do not think ham transceivers do this. Also, on a spectrum analyzer, you can see the carrier drift for a fraction of a second after PTT activation before it reaches a steady state frequency. If you turn the BFO on you can hear this slow chirp.

Well, I for one refuse to cede 10m CW to these intruders without a fight. So what can we do? We can alert the ARRL intruder watch person, the FCC, the IARU, SA/CA radio clubs but I doubt we will see any desirable results. I believe the ham community has to impose the deterrents ourselves. A club domain expert in AM broadcasting informed me that the way to inflict maximum receiving discomfort is to transmit a CW signal at + or – 600 Hz from the carrier. I suspect slow random characters or a long CQ are more irritating than a constant tone. Just some food for thought.

RON, N0RR

The SDDXC Top Ten (Expanded Version)
By John, K6AM

CURRENT COUNTRIES CONFIRMED ON PHONE

Oct 14	Oct 13	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YI		340	359	359	-
2.	10.	N6CW		340	349	349	+8
3.	2.	K6AM		340	349	349	-
4.	3.	K9RHY		339	350	350	-
5.	4.	K6GAK		338	365	365	-
6.	5.	W6YOO		338	347	347	-
7.	6.	NN6K		337	339	339	-
8.	7.	N0RR		336	357	357	-
9.	9.	K6ZH		334	343	343	-
10.	11.	W6YA		332	?	?	-

Oct 14	Oct 13	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
11.	12.	WA6MHZ		329	339	339	=
12.	14.	K5OA		326	344	345	+3
13.	13.	W6ZZ		323	350	351	-
14.	15.	K0XB		322	329	332	+4
15.	17.	N6XT		319	325	333	+4
16.	16.	K6KT		317	339	339	-
17.	18.	WN6K		314	323	336	+4
18.	19.	N6VS		304	308	312	+2
19.	20.	NG6Z		291	292	295	-
20.	-	WB6BFG		289	291	300	New

We're lookin' at the top 20 in this category to accommodate the larger number of entries. The top 10 stays rock stable with the notable exception of Terry, N6CW who finally got his records updated to move into second place. Lots of guys in the right column making good progress with Wild Bill making his first appearance. Send me your updates when those cards come in so you won't get left in the dust. There's still plenty of room for more shakeup in the second ten, so you guys get out there and have some fun.

Each month, we will publish a top ten list for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, CW, 10/40M and 80/20M. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

CHECK YOUR LOGS

It's time once again to recognize those of you who have made outstanding DX achievements during the year. Please check your logs and let me know if you worked your 331st current country or more than 20 all time new countries during 2014. Send your totals to k6am at arrl dot net.

**SDDXC RESULTS
2014 CQ WPX PHONE DX CONTEST**

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
MULTI-TWO	NX6T (ops N6KI WA2OOB, WQ6X.)	9,761,588	3,629	1,172	#2 W6, #6 N.A.
SO HP 10 (TS)	ZF1A (W6VNR)	7,267,250	2,979	1,025	#1 WORLD TS Category #9 WORLD SO HP 10
SO HP 10M	NY6N (W6YI)	3,545,672	1,945	824	#1 W6 , #6 NA
SA HP ALL	K5OA/6	1,036,569	826	501	#7 W6
SA HP ALL	N5ZO/6	56,017	175	139	#19 W6



How's DX?

This page consists of historical data so members can share information or brag about their accomplishments. For real time info, monitor the club 2m spotting frequency, 144.415 MHz. For future DX info subscribe to the ARRL weekly DX bulletin and/or W3UR's newsletter.

Recent DX Worked by SDDXC Members

Station	Band	Date	Time	By	Station	Band	Date	Time	By
3B8FR	10 CW	13-Oct	1428	W6YI	S79KB	10 CW	16-Oct	1807	NN6R
3B9FR	10 CW	10-Oct	1521	N0RR	TJ3SN	10 CW	28-Sep	2143	N0RR
4W/G3ZEM	80 CW	16-Oct	1140	N0RR	TK4LS	10 CW	5-Oct	1529	N0RR
4W/G3ZEM	10 CW	19-Oct	2335	N0RR	TK5MH	10 CW	13-Oct	1448	W6YI
7Z1HL	10 CW	13-Oct	1425	W6YI	TR8CA	40 CW	30-Sep	0527	W6YI
9X0VA	10 SSB	6-Oct	18:46	NN6R	TY1AA	80 CW	24-Sep	0316	N0RR
A92HK	10 SSB	7-Oct	1503	NN6R	UX7LQ	10 CW	13-Oct	1454	W6YI
EL3DT	15 CW	16-Oct	1504	NN6R	VK9AN	80 CW	26-Sep	1241	N0RR
FR/DJ7RJ	30 CW	17-Oct	1410	NN6R	VK9DLX	10-160	13-Oct	varied	W6YI
HZ1DG	10 SSB	17-Oct	1715	NN6R	VU2PAI	17 CW	5-Oct	1846	NN6R
R7AB	10 CW	4-Oct	1522	N0RR	ZD9XF	80 CW	24-Sep	0537	N0RR
S79KB	20 CW	7-Oct	0210	NN6R	ZD9XF	10 CW	29-Sep	1924	W6YI
S79KB	10 CW	16-Oct	1644	W6YI	ZD9XF	40 CW	30-Sep	0254	W6YI

2014 California QSO Party

Call: NX6T Club: San Diego Contest Club

Operator(s): AF6WF K6KAL WB6NBU K6GO NA6MB N6CY K4RB W2PWS, N6KI

Class: M/S Fixed HP

Operating Time (hrs): 30

Summary:

Band CW Qs Ph Qs

160: 13 0

80: 87 55

40: 209 288

20: 298 242

15: 189 198

10: 127 126

Total: 923 909 Mults = 57 Total Score = 261,459

Comments:

Hot & Dry weekend launched very bad power line noise and even with excellent K3 DSP Noise Blanker that minimizes buckshot on loud adjacent signals, many Qs were lost all day Sunday. Since Wintest does not do CQP, and many of my Ops do not know how to use N1MM, we decided to take a big risk and use the relatively new logging program DXLOG which is very similar to Wintest but is a resource hog and our older laptops showed the lag. Missed the illusive VE5 in SK for only 57 mults. Heard a VE5 wasmobile but he never stopped by our freqs.

73, Dennis N6KI

A Few Words about the 2014 Pacificon Convention

And finally, the weekend of October 10th to the 12th saw the unofficial end of the 2014 major ham radio convention season with the holding of the 2014 Pacificon Convention in Santa Clara, California. And according to Gordon West, WB6NOA, who was one of this years presenters, accolades go to the sponsors of this years event:

WB6NOA: "What a great job that the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club and other volunteers did in pulling this off. It was a three day deal on Friday, Saturday and Sunday."

Saturday was the big day with lots happening through out the Santa Clara Marriott Convention Center:

WB6NOA: "On Friday afternoon as well as Saturday and half of Sunday the exhibit hall was open, and let me tell you that it was a whose who in amateur radio was there in the exhibit hall. All of the majors (suppliers) were there. All of the up and coming were there and the booths were absolutely filled throughout the entire day."

As to attendance, so far there are no official numbers, but if the Flea Market was any indication, then the numbers had to be strong:

WB6NOA: "I knew it was going to be big when I saw the swap-meet going on in the dead of dark on Saturday morning. Probably 2000 to 2400 and they were all with smiles."

WB6NOA also reports on overflow attendance at popular digital radio seminar tracks such as SDR, D-STAR, and DMR . West also says a Sunday morning "Ham Radio 101 " track for brand new hams was a big help to get new licensees on the air over the local BayNet repeater systems, and other local open repeaters .

Perhaps the biggest surprise came with the announcement that Pacificon 2015 is moving a couple of miles away to the San Ramon Marriott in San Ramon, California. Next years dates are October 16th through the 18th. If you have a suggestion to help make next year's event even better, let the planners know by e-mail to [info \(at\) pacificon.org](mailto:info(at)pacificon.org). (ARNewsline, WB6NOA)

73, Dave, W6AQ



Consider this for your next African vacation. A safari, big game hunting and /or DXing from a single QTH.

TX7G INSIDERS NEWSLETTER

TX7G Plans

We anticipate being on the air very late UTC time (evening US time) on Oct. 18th until Oct. 26th.

We've published our frequency plans to tx7g.com/plans/. Feedback is very welcome.

We'll start the week hammering CW and WARC band SSB then transition more to 10/12 meters, 80 meters, and RTTY. The last 2 days will primarily focus on the CQ WW DX SSB contest (Zone 31).

Hatiheu Scouting Report

Wild Bill (WB6BFG) and Ellen (N6UWW) recently went on a cruise that stopped at Nuku Hiva Island. They were very generous to take time to visit the tiny village of Hatiheu where we will be operating from. They provided a comprehensive scouting report complete with photos.

This information is incredibly helpful in giving us an idea of what to expect when we arrive.

Thanks Wild Bill and Ellen for the reconnaissance mission!

TX7G Marquesas Islands (FO-M) DXpedition

It was just 4 months ago that Rob (N7QT - he is currently operating as TX5Z from the Austral Islands) introduced Grant and Jared after discovering both of us were looking at South Pacific entities to operate from. Grant suggested Marquesas, an entity that Jared had already been considering, and the rest is history.



View toward the beach from our radio shack

We first planned a small phone and RTTY-only operation, but quickly learned that CW was in high demand. We're thrilled that Keith and Don wanted to join us. Over the last 2 months we've put together a fantastic plan for giving maximum opportunity for everyone to get TX7G in the log. We can't wait to get on the air in just a few days!

— Jared (N7SMI), Grant (KZ1W), Keith (VE7KW), and Don (VE7DS)



On-Island Updates

Internet access will be available a short walk away at a nearby restaurant. We will not have internet in the shack. We're unsure of the internet speed or reliability, but anticipate checking e-mail and uploading logs to Club Log, and e-mailing occasional updates to our TX7G Insiders. Keep a close eye on our band plan and on your e-mail to know when to listen for us on particular bands.

TX7G SPONSORS

We're incredibly grateful to all of our sponsors and to all of you for your support.

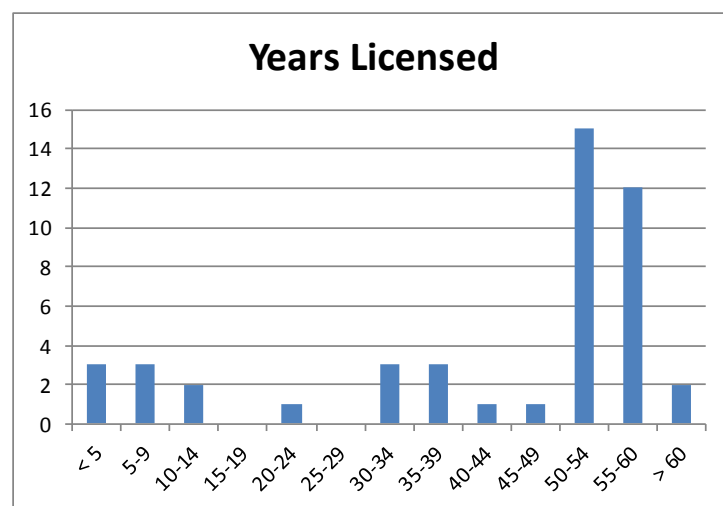


The following pages contain summaries of the results from the July SDDXC Member Survey. I reported most of the results verbally at the September meeting, but here is the final tally of all the “non-yes/no” type responses documented in graphically form. Notes on the results:

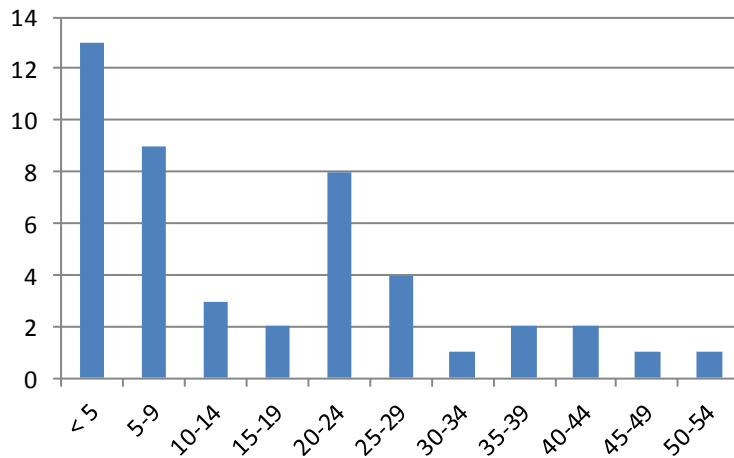
- 1) 50 members responded.
- 2) 47 provided serious input; 3 provided silly answers and were not counted. I believe we have 89 members, so 52% responded.
- 3) Not everyone answered all the questions
- 4) Many people provided multiple answers to a single question
- 5) General categories summarize multiple inputs with a common theme. Therefore some nuances of your response may not have been included.
- 6) The vertical axis for all graphs is the number of members

Your Ham Radio Goals	#
Get to know DX operators better	6
Work new DXCC entities	6
Make Top of DXCC Honor Roll	5
Enjoy/experiment with new technology	4
Just relax and enjoy hobby	4
Operate as DX	4
Collect DX QSLs	2
Make DXCC Honor Roll	2
Assist with emergency Communications	1
Be better prepared for emergencies	1
Develop better contest operating skills	1
Develop better operating skills	1
Implement better contest automation	1
Learn CW	1
Make 6m DXCC	1
Make DXCC Honor Roll with 100W	1
Make Top of DXCC Honor Roll on 3 modes	1
Operate in more contests	1
Promote goodwill over the air	1
Stay at Top of the Honor Roll	1
Work 300 DXCC entities	1
Work 300 DXCC entities on 8 bands	1

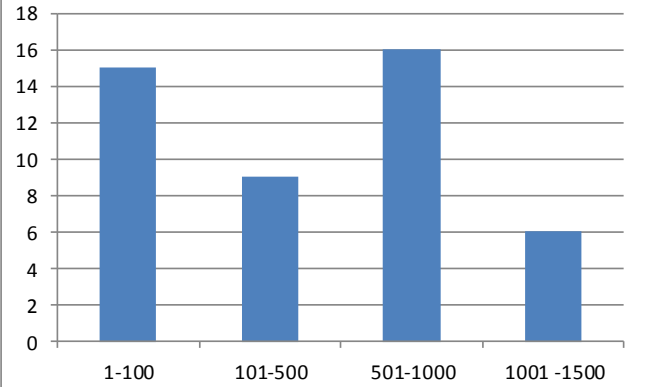
How can the SDDXC help achieve your goals?
Get more members on CW
Offer CW classes
Offer Elmer programs
Have more technical presentations at meetings
Provide knowledge of DXpeditions with SDDXC men
Only takes time, club cannot help
Done a good job so far
Get more members on DXpeditions
Establish a club repeater
Provide real time spots via phone & 2m



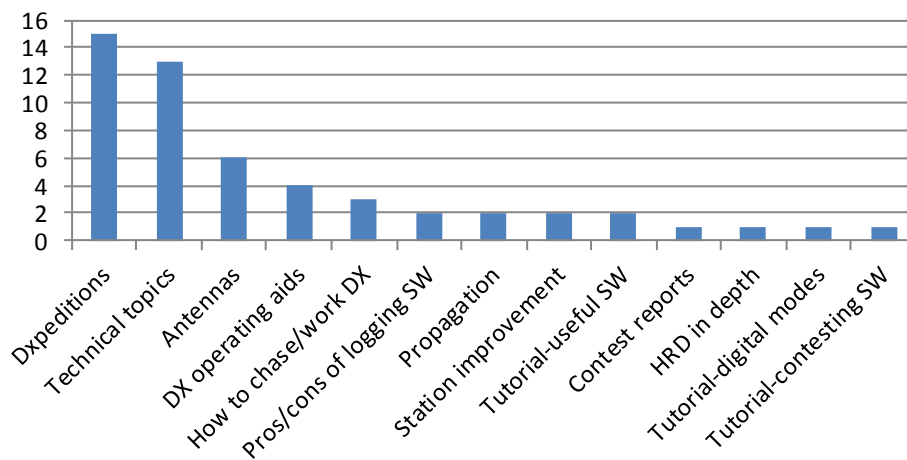
SDDXC Member (years)



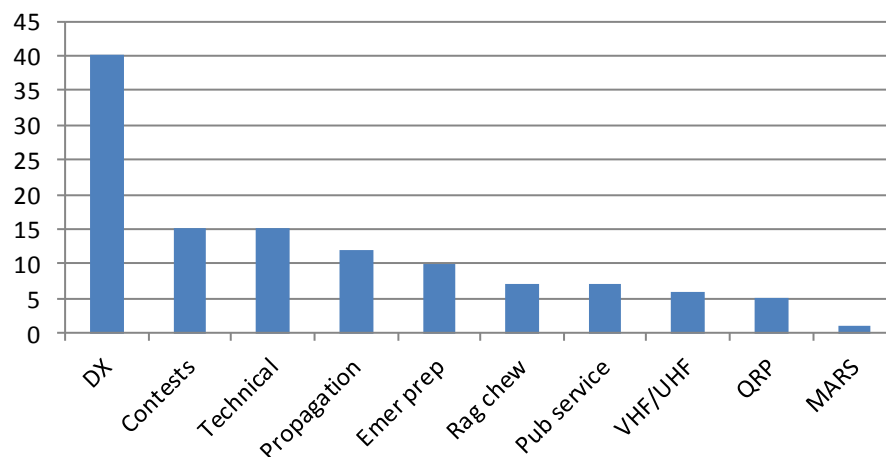
Output Power

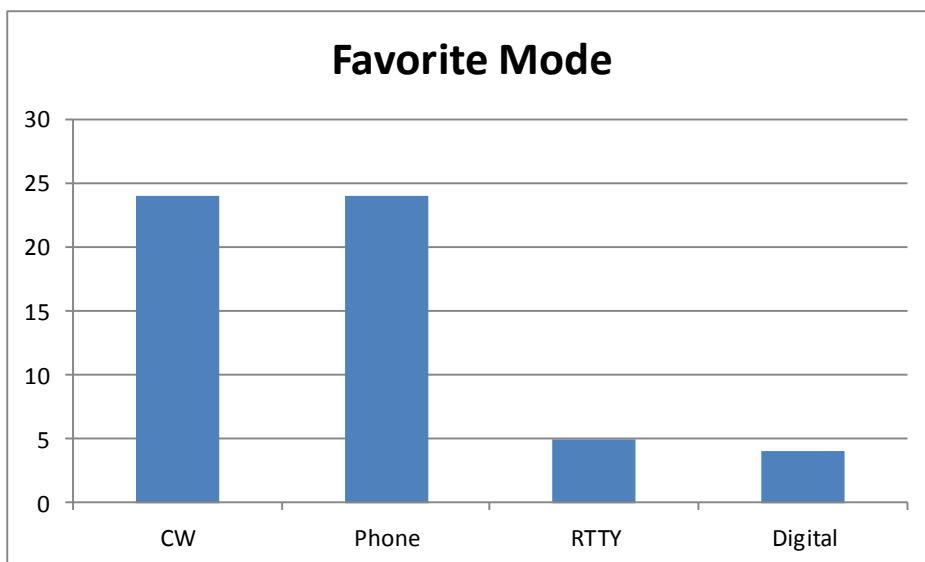
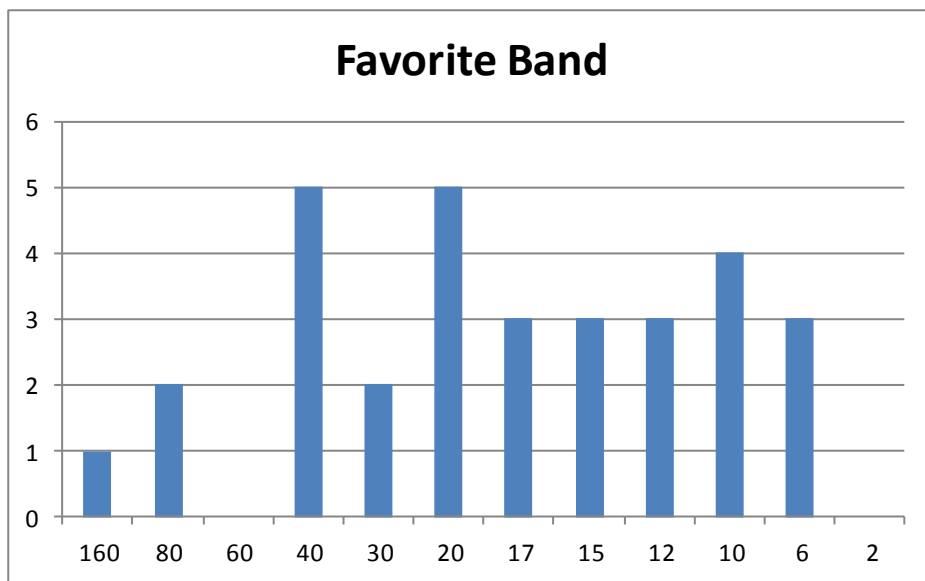
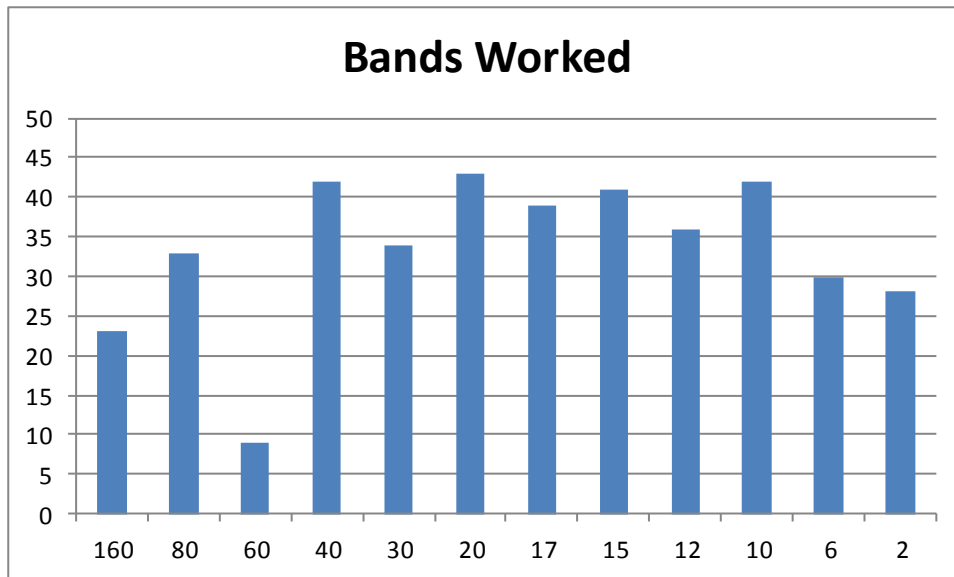


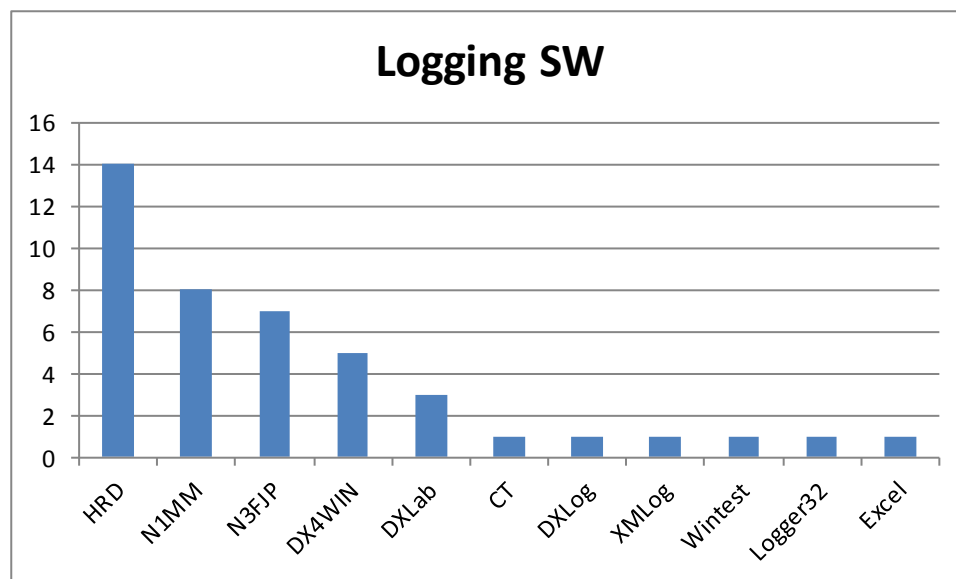
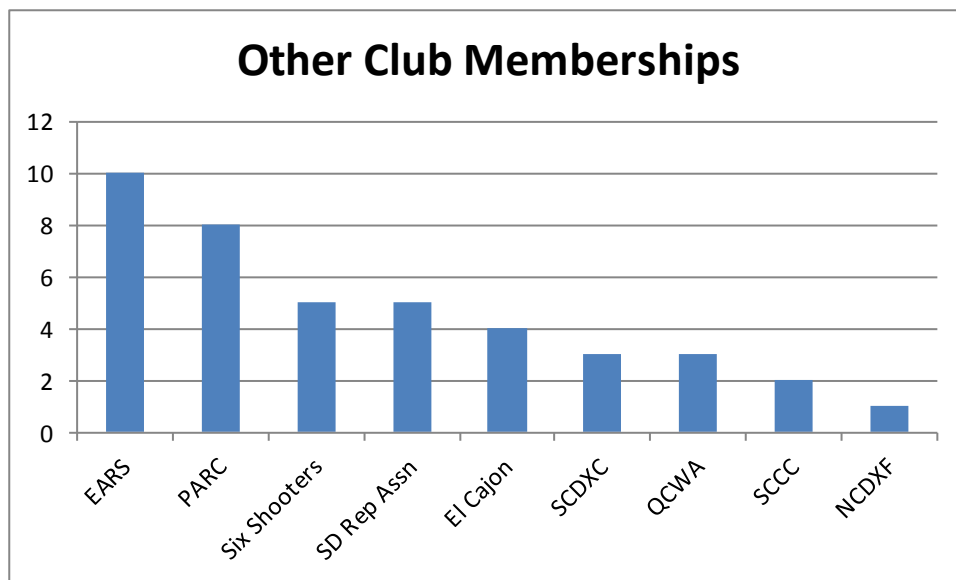
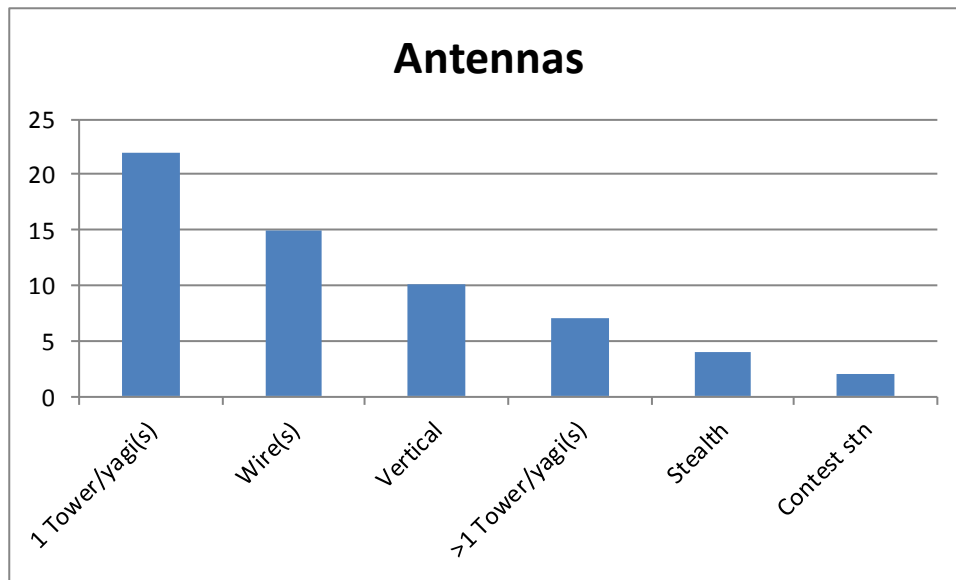
Meeting Presentation Topics

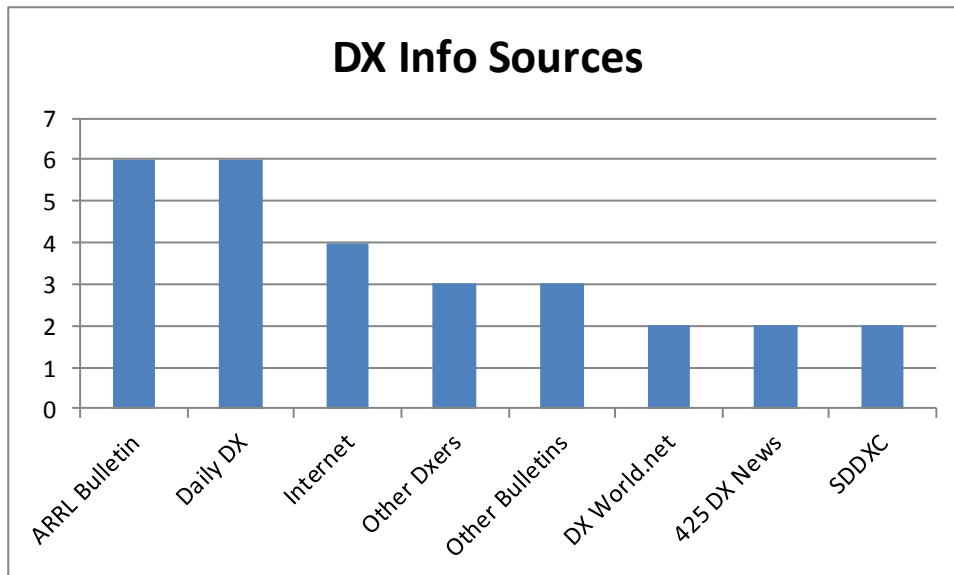


Primary Interests









Comments on Monthly Meeting Agenda and Format					
Limit round-table to 3 minutes/person					6
Limit round-table to DX topics only					6
Start meeting later					2
OK as is					4

Gordon Shackelford, AE6QW

A teaser for our January
speaker

Ultra High Performance HF Receivers: \$1K to \$18K Really?

Today we are seeing an interesting variety of HF Receiver Architectures vie for the highest performance under difficult receiving conditions. Over the years, Sherwood Engineering has tested and rated six pages of mostly receiver sections of HF transceivers. This talk discusses the best of these test results, the Page 1 Receivers. Performance at this level is not really related to cost, with top rated receivers ranging in cost from \$1K to \$18K.

Bio:

Gordon Shackelford, AE6QW, is Lecturer Emeritus in the Dept. of Physics at SDSU, where he has taught electronics for portions of five decades. While he has only been in amateur radio of 10 years, he has played with HF receivers since Jr. High School. He is treasurer of the Lakeside Amateur Radio Club and continues to teach as a volunteer at SDSU and Amateur Radio license courses.

